

URBAN DISTRICT  
— OF —  
**SOWERBY.**

---



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
ON THE  
**Health and Sanitary State**  
of the District  
**FOR THE YEAR 1931.**

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SOWERBY BRIDGE :  
J. W. EDWARDS, PRINTER, 14, TOWN HALL STREET.  
—  
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# Urban District Council of Sowerby

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## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

December 31st, 1931.

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Councillor JOHN BATES, J.P.,  
*Chairman of Council.*

„ J. W. WHITELEY.  
„ A. FISHWICK.  
„ J. T. MITCHELL.  
„ J. LUM.  
„ J. SUTCLIFFE.  
„ F. A. FOSTER.  
„ A. F. LONGBOTTOM.  
„ W. LUMB.  
„ G. TUCKER, C.C.  
„ G. SHARP.  
„ W. JAMES.  
„ F. GREENWOOD.  
„ G. A. ROBERTS.  
„ E. LUMB,  
„ S. HANSON.  
„ C. W. MAUDE.  
„ R. H. HOWARTH,  
*Chairman of Sanitary and Hospital Committee.*

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## PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

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*Chairman :* Mr. Councillor R. H. HOWARTH.

*Medical Officer of Health :*

EDGAR D. WELLBURN,  
L.R.C.P. & S. Ed., F.R.I.P.H., F.G.S., &c.

*Sanitary Inspector :*

T. GRIME, M. Inst. M. & Cy. E., Cert. R. San. Inst.

## Urban District of Sowerby.

### STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

Area of District in Acres (exclusive of water)	...	3025½
Rateable Value	... ..	£64,311
Altitude—varies from 230ft. to 1250ft. above sea level.		
Latitude, 53 deg. 42 N.	Longitude, 1 deg. 56 W.	
Population	.. ...	14,810
Birth Rate (1930)	... ..	13·1
Birth Rate (1931)	... ..	12·5
Death Rate (1930)	... ..	13·0
*Death Rate (1931)	... ..	16·1
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age (1930)	... ..	14
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age (1931)	... ..	20

\*See Deaths in Old Age, page 6.

**REPORT**  
OF THE  
**Medical Officer of Health**  
For the Year ending 1931.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH  
COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL.

SIR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the pleasure to present my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health, on the health and statistics of your district for the year ending December 31st, 1931.

The population during the year under review is taken as 14,810. These figures are furnished by the Registrar-General.

**BIRTHS.**

The births registered in the district during the year 1931 were 283 as compared with 200 in the previous year, and an average of 215 for the past five years.

Of the 283 above-named, 78 were males and 105 were females.

This number corresponds to a birth-rate of 12·5 per 1000 per annum, against 13·1 in 1930, 12·2 in 1929, 12·2 in 1928, and 13·6 in 1927.

The average for the past five years has been 215.

Illegitimate births number 8, against 9 in 1930. The number for 1931 is 3·0 per cent of the total births against 4·8 during 1929.



The birth-rate for England and Wales in 1931 was 12·3 smaller towns.

## DEATHS.

There were 217 deaths registered in your district during 1931, while 62 deaths occurred outside your area of persons usually resident within the area, which number must be included in the full total of 279, as compared with 202 in 1930, and an average of 254 for the past five years.

Of the total in 1931, 129 were males and 150 were females, giving a death-rate for the year of 16·1 per 1000 per annum, against 13·0 during 1930, and 16·1 during 1929.

The death-rate for England and Wales in 1931 was 12·3 smaller towns.

The 62 deaths of residents which occurred outside your district took place in one or other of the public institutions in Halifax, the West Riding Asylums, or other places of a similar kind. As regards the deaths of persons in the district, 127 were over 65 years of age, 71 of these being over 75 years.

Table of Deaths at subjoined ages:—

1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	
20	14	15	9	13	under 1 year
5	2	2	6	5	1 to 5 years
2	3	5	3	2	5 to 15 „
4	5	12	17	11	15 to 25 „
77	75	90	94	91	25 to 65 „
56	58	70	46	54	65 to 75 „
71	45	60	50	40	over 75 „
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	
235	202	254	225	216	



The following table shows the number of births and deaths, as well as the birth-rates and death-rates for the past five years :—

Year		Births		Birth-rate		Deaths		Death-rate
1927	...	205	...	13·6	...	216	...	15·0
1928	...	196	...	12·2	...	225	...	15·6
1929	...	198	...	12·3	...	254	...	16·0
1930	...	200	...	13·1	...	202	...	13·0
1931	...	283	...	12·3	...	279	...	16·1
Average for five years		215	...	13·0	...	235	...	15·1

Fourteen inquests were held during the year, being equal to 5·0 per cent. of the total deaths. In England and Wales the percentage of inquests is equivalent to 6·17 per cent. of the total deaths.

The following table gives various items and corresponding figures in England and Wales, with the figures prevailing in your district :—

1931.	Birth-rate.	Death-rate.	Cancer Death-rate.	Diphtheria Death-rate.	Infantile Mortality Rate per 1000 Births.	Deaths in Public Institutions.	Inquests.
Smaller Towns England and Wales	15·8	12·3	—	1·27	62	—	6·17
Sowerby ... ..	12·5	16·1	0·13	Nil	61	Nil	5·0

## INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Twenty deaths have been registered during the year of infants under 1 year of age, as compared with 14 in 1930 and 15 in 1929.

The above number gives an infantile mortality rate of 61 per 1000 births registered, as compared with 60 in 1930, 70 in 1929, 43 in 1928, and 63 in 1927.

The mortality throughout England and Wales was 66 per 1000 births in 1931.

Many of the twenty deaths may properly be classed as unavoidable as they occurred during the first few weeks after birth, and arose from premature birth, congenital defects, etc.

### Age Distribution of Infant Deaths :—

1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	Resident
10	4	4	2	2	under 1 week
5	3	3	3	3	1 week to 1 month
2	3	0	3	4	1 to 3 months
2	2	5	0	2	3 to 9 months
1	2	3	1	2	9 to 12 months
—	—	—	—	—	
20	14	15	9	13	

The Childs' Welfare Clinic in Sowerby Bridge has been taken up by the ladies in the district with great enthusiasm. I am sure that it is doing good work and is a great benefit to the district.

Two deaths from Diarrhœa under two years, against none during 1930, one in 1929, three in 1928, and one in 1927.

## ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

Under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act there were notified during the year under review 52 cases, together with 20 cases of Tuberculosis notified under the Tuberculosis Regulations. Total 72 against 64 during 1930, 142 in 1929, 104 in 1928, and 36 in 1927.

The following table shows the number of varieties of infectious disorder which were notified:

**Table of Zymotic Diseases during 1931 and preceding five years.**

Year.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.	Erysipelas.	Tuberculosis, Pulmonary.	Tuberculosis, other cases.	Puerperal Fever.	Ophthalmia.	Encephalgia Lothargia.	Smallpox.	Totals.
1931	25	24	0	2	13	7	1	0	0	0	72
1930	27	6	1	1	12	6	0	0	0	1	64
1929	112	3	11	0	7	4	2	0	1	3	143
1928	70	9	2	7	15	3	2	0	1	5	104
1927	18	1	2	1	11	2	1	0	0	0	36

Scarlet Fever cases were treated at Milner Royd Hospital. Diphtheria cases at Brighouse Joint Hospital Board.

Thirty-two cases of Scarlet Fever and twelve cases of Diphtheria were treated at the Fever Hospital during the year, none proving fatal.

No death from Enteric Fever occurred during 1931, against one during 1930, and two during 1929. Puerperal Sepois, one fatal case the year.

### Small-pox.

No case was reported during the year. All contacts from other districts were kept under observation. Vaccination was properly carried out and there was no spread in this district.

## TABLE OF TUBERCULOSIS. 1931.

	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
10	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
35	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0
45	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
55	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 upwards	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1931	4	7	2	0	2	3	1	1
1930	6	6	5	1	7	1	0	3
1929	3	7	1	0	8	6	1	1
1928	6	9	1	2	5	5	1	2
1927	5	16	1	1	5	2	2	1

Seven deaths occurred from Tuberculosis in its various forms, against eleven during 1930, and sixteen in 1929.

The death-rate is equivalent to 0·25 per 1000 per annum against 0·37 in 1930, 0·50 in 1929.

### RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

Bronchitis and Pneumonia were responsible for a total of 57 deaths during the year, equivalent to a death rate of 0·04 per thousand per annum, against 0·03 in 1930.

### HEART DISEASE.

There were 42 cases, 16 males and 26 females, during 1931, equivalent to a death-rate of 0·02 per 1000 per annum.

## CANCER.

Twenty-three cases during 1931 : 8 males, 15 females, giving a death-rate of 0·13 per thousand per annum.

## MEASLES.

No deaths during the year, against one in 1930 and one in 1929.

## HOUSING.

4,454 houses exist in the district, of which number 4,180 are of the working class type.

The number of new houses erected during the past year is 26.

Houses erected as part of the municipal scheme	...	12
Houses erected by private enterprise	... ..	14
		—
		26

### 1.—*Unfit Dwelling-houses.*

Inspection.—(1) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts ... .. 59

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Acts (Inspection of District) Regulations ... .. 59

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in such a state as to be dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... .. 4



(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

2.—*Remedy of Defects without Formal Notice.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	...	...	10
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

3.—*Action under Statutory Powers.*

A.—Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning Act, &c., 1919	...	...	...	None
--	-----	-----	-----	------

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	10
---	-----	-----	----

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit :—	
--	--

(a) by Owners	...	...	...	...	10
---------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

(b) by Local Authority in default of Owner	...	None
--	-----	------

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declaration by owners to close	...	...	...	None
--	-----	-----	-----	------

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts	...	...	None
---	-----	-----	------

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied :—	
---	--

(a) by Owners	...	...	...	...	1
---------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---



(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners ... None

C.—Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the  
Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909 ... None

(1) Number of representations made with a view to  
making of Closing Orders ... 4

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which  
Closing Orders were made ... 4

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which  
Closing Orders were made and determined, the  
dwelling-houses having been made fit ... None

(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which  
Demolition Orders were made ... None

(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursu-  
ance with Demolition Orders ... None

## GENERAL REPORT.

There were approximately 194 inspections of nuisances during the year. 194 nuisances were found, and of these 187 were abated, thus leaving 7 outstanding cases at the end of 1931.

Numerous inspections were carried out by your Sanitary Inspector, also in respect of Common Lodging-Houses, Canal Boats, Offensive Trades, &c., the general conditions being found satisfactory.

64 Cowsheds were inspected, and alterations to lighting, drainage, conditions of walls and floors have been carried out in numerous cases to bring the premises up-to-date. Some of the floors of the cowsheds required reconstruction.

Several seizures of diseased and unsound food have occurred during the year, particulars of which are to be found in the Sanitary Inspector's report attached hereto.

There are nine schools in the district, all having a public water supply, and their sanitary condition is satisfactory.

The re-construction of the Sewage Works is now completed, and giving satisfaction.

Numerous other matters have received attention during the year, but reference to them here is not necessary, because they have been the subject of report from time to time by your Sanitary Inspector or myself.

These have chiefly regard to inspection of houses, the disinfection of premises after infectious disease, the inspection of factories and workshops, slaughter-houses, etc.

The Fever Hospital.—See page 9.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

EDGAR D. WELLBURN,

1932.

L.R.C.P. & S. Ed., F.R.I.P.H., F.G.S., &c.

# *Sowerby Urban District Council.*

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COUNCIL OFFICES,

SOWERBY BRIDGE,

MARCH 10th, 1932.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.*

SIR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have again the pleasure of submitting my Annual Report of the work done in your Health Department during the past year.

## **Inspection of Nuisances (Public Health Acts).**

Total Number of Inspections Made ...	...	...	194
Re-inspections of work during progress of work ...	...	532	
Nuisances Found ...	...	...	194
Nuisances Abated ...	...	...	187
Nuisances outstanding at the end of 1931 ...	...	7	
Complied with ...	...	...	182
Informal notices served for Abatement of Nuisances		194	
Statutory Notices served ...	...	...	14
Letters and Circulars sent out in connection with various matters relating to the Public Health		450	

## **SANITARY WORKS ACCOMPLISHED.**

Drains Tested ...	...	...	30
New Drains Laid ...	...	...	14
Choked Yard Drains Cleared ...	...	...	20
Gullies Cleared ...	...	...	31
Inspection Chambers Constructed ...	...	...	2
New Sinks Provided ...	...	...	9
Sink Waste Pipes Repaired ...	...	...	11

Sink Waste Pipes Disconnected	...	...	...	11
Bath and Lavatory Wastes Repaired	...	...	...	13
Rainwater Shoots Repaired	...	...	...	14
Water Closets Repaired	...	...	...	26
Gutters and Troughs Repaired	...	...	...	7
Dirty Premises and Passages Cleaned	...	...	...	10
Roofs Repaired	...	...	...	11
Overcrowding Abated...	...	...	...	6
Accumulations of Rubbish Removed	...	...	...	5
Accumulations of Manure Removed...	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous Nuisances Abated	...	...	...	8
Cellar Dwellings Closed	...	...	...	4
Nuisances from Smoke Abated	...	...	...	11

### Matters Reported to the Health Committee for Statutory Action were as follows:—

#### Housing Acts, 1925—

Defective Houses	...	...	...	...	...	37
Closing Orders...	...	...	...	...	...	4

#### Public Health Acts, 1875—

Black Smoke	...	...	...	...	...	9
Defective Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	5
Insanitary Closet Accommodation (Privy-midden)	...	...	...	...	...	7
Offensive Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	1

#### Public Health Amendments Act, 1890

Defective Combined Drains	...	...	...	...	2
---------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

#### Factory and Workshops Act, 1901

Insufficient Accommodation	...	...	...	...	3
Unsuitable Sanitary Accommodation	...	...	...	...	1

Inefficient Ventilation ... ..	1
Dirty Workshops ... ..	2

---

## PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY THE COUNCIL UNDER THE VARIOUS ACTS.

There are at present :

Fish Friers ... ..	23
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops. (These include bottled Milk Purveyors) ... ..	104
Bakehouses ... ..	15
Slaughter-Houses ... ..	4
Common Lodging-Houses ... ..	1
Gutscraper ... ..	1
Tripeboiler ... ..	1
<b>Overcrowding.</b>	<hr/> 135

There have been 6 cases of overcrowding, 2 of which were due to families taking in Lodgers, and 4 cases where the family was too large for the size of the house.

### Inspection and Supervision of Foodstuffs.

The Milk Supply—The milk supply of the district is derived principally from the Sowerby portion of the district. No complaints have been made with respect to the quality, and improvements are being carried out to bring the premises up-to-date.

The number of Cowsheds in the district is ...	64
Number of cows kept is approximately ...	600
The number of Cowkeepers on the Register is	64
The number of inspections made during the year including visits with the veterinary surgeon when inspecting cattle is ... ..	180



## Milk and Dairies.

The number of Wholesale milk producers in the district is ...	...	...	...	...	...	5
The number of Retailers on the Register is ...	...	...	...	...	...	104

## Meat Inspection.

During the year, the carcasses of animals slaughtered for food and examined are as follows :—

Bovines	Sheep	Pigs	Calves	
722	1607	743	4	total 3076.

Of this amount,  $11\frac{1}{4}$  cwts. were found to be unfit for food, and was surrendered on request. In addition to this, there have been 120 lbs. of fish surrendered as unfit for food.

The visits and inspections to the slaughter-houses amount to 437. Inspection of the various places where food is prepared are made at short periods, and as a rule are found to be clean and wholesome.

## Water Supply.

*Sanitary Circumstances of the Council's Area.*—The main water supply of Sowerby Bridge is from the Halifax Corporation by agreement. The water is of good quality, ample for the requirements of the district under ordinary circumstances. I understand, however, that the Corporation are constructing an additional reservoir, which will, when completed, overcome the difficulty in this direction. The old Sowerby portion of the district is dependent on springs and wells, and in some cases ground water, which is not satisfactory as the water from some of these sources is very liable to pollution.



## Rivers and Streams.

There are two rivers passing through the district, viz.: the Calder and the Ryburn, the latter joining the Calder at the County Bridge, and whilst efforts are made to prevent the pollution of the waters, it will be seen that it is well-nigh impossible to effect this owing to the number of districts through which the rivers flow.

## Drainage and Sewerage.

With respect to the sewerage and drainage of the district, the more densely populated parts (Sowerby Bridge) are well sewered and drained. Sewers have been laid at Mill Bank, Hubberton, New Barton and Saw Hill.

## Closet Accommodation.

The closet accommodation of the district is now as follows:

	No. of W.C.'s	Pails	Privy Ashpits	No. of Closets
1931	3270	212	380	3482
	Open Ashpits		Covered Ashpits	
	91		380	

All pail closets and privies are being converted to water closets where the sewer and water supply is available, and even when this has been done, there will be a considerable amount to scavenge, as the majority of the privies are away from the line of the sewer, and the water supply being in the form of wells and springs it will be difficult to convert them to the water carriage system.

## Scavenging, House Refuse Removal.

The scavenging of the district is carried out by the Council's staff under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. The collection is fortnightly except in cases of the more crowded areas, which receive attention weekly.

The particulars of the collection for the past year are as follows:—

Ashbins cleansed	Ashpits cleansed	Pail closets cleansed
98,297	1,500	17,762

Privy ashpits cleansed

453

Total Loads removed to the Destructor and Tips, 7117 loads.

### Housing and Town Planning Acts (Inspection of District).

During the past year 59 houses have been inspected under the Housing Acts. Notices were served on the Owners and Occupiers where necessary as follows :

Informal Notices for repairs	...	...	...	17
Statutory Notices	...	...	...	3
Legal Proceedings	...	...	...	None

Four Cellar Dwellings have been closed during the year.

Particulars of the Housing Inspections are to be found in table D. in the Housing Report.

### Smoke Abatement.

151 observations of smoke emitted from the various Mill and Workshop chimneys in the district, and 11 informal notices to abate the nuisance arising from excessive smoke were issued. The average smoke issued from the various chimney is 2'05 per half-hour, and the limit allowed by the Council is 3 minutes per half-hour.

### Conclusion.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I beg to thank you for your courtesy and consideration at all times, and also to thank my brother Officers for the assistance they have at all times rendered.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

T. GRIME,

M. Inst. M. & Cy. E., Cert. R. San. Inst.

COUNCIL OFFICES,

SOWERBY BRIDGE,

December 31st, 1931.

*To the Chief Canal Boats Inspector, Ministry of Health.*

SIR,

I herewith beg to submit my Annual Report as Inspector of Canal Boats under the above Urban Authority for the year ending December 31st, 1931.

- 1.—Canal Boat Inspector authorised by appointment to examine and report on all boats plying in the district. Salary inclusive with payment for other duties.
- 2.—Number of Boats examined during year—4.
- 3.—No infringements of the Acts or Regulations were discovered.
- 4.—No legal proceedings have been taken.
- 5.—No Notices have been served.
- 6.—No cases of Infectious Disease have been observed.
- 7.—No boats have been detained for cleansing purposes.
- 8.—Number of boats on register is 5.
- 9.—No boats have been registered during the year.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

T. GRIME,

*Canal Boat Inspector.*

N.B.—The canal is now practically disused for carrying purposes since the Rochdale Canal Company ceased business as Carriers.

## 1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.

	Inspections	Written Notices
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	33	4
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	47	3
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises)	5	0
	—	—
	85	7

## 2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.

Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—

Insufficient Accommodation	...	...	...	...	1
Insufficient Ventilation	...	...	...	...	1
W.C.'s and drains choked	...	...	...	...	2
Dirty Workshops	...	...	...	...	1
				—	
				Total	5

All of which have been remedied.

COUNCIL OFFICES,

SOWERBY BRIDGE,

February 19th, 1932.

*The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.*

DEAR SIR,

### **The Rats and Mice Destruction Act.**

I have to report that in connection with the above Act 2225 baits have been laid in various parts of the district and over 60 per cent. of these have been taken.

All the tips have been treated monthly and baits have been laid along the banks of the rivers at various times during the past year. We have had but two complaints respecting rats and have taken action immediately with satisfactory results.

All ashpits in the area are treated periodically, and by this means we are able to keep the rats well under control.

During National Rat Week, 1931, all tips, ashpits, and other likely places were treated with Red Squill, which I find very effective in keeping the rodents down in the district. From what I have seen, I am of the opinion that the Red Squill is doing its work satisfactorily.

The House Refuse Scavengers report the presence of vermin when they are met with in ashpits, and immediate steps are taken to destroy the rodents without delay.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

T. GRIME,

*Sanitary Inspector.*







